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Flying



SUPERVISOR OF FLYING (SOF) PROGRAM

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This instruction implements AFRPD 11-2, *Aircraft Rules and Procedures*. It establishes the minimum essential elements required in an AFRC SOF program, is optional for associate units, and does not apply to ACC or AFSOC gained units. This SOF program does not relieve other agencies of their responsibility for providing safe and effective aircraft control. Numbered air forces and subordinate units may supplement this instruction to expand and define individual unit programs. Unit programs contain the minimum essential elements set forth in this instruction.

1. Need for SOF. Positive supervision of flying activities is essential for safe and efficient mission accomplishment and is an inherent responsibility of commanders of flying operations at each level. The SOF program is intended to function, as a minimum, at those times when an operational command post (active duty or reserve) is not available.

1.1. The demands on flying unit supervisors are many and varied, and require that they delegate supervision of the unit's flying activities. During periods when the command post is not functioning, this delegation is directed to the supervisor of flying. It is essential to designate highly qualified individuals to provide required supervision to ensure safe and professional flying.

1.2. The SOF program is mission essential because it is a key element in commanding and controlling flying activities.

1.3. Unit commanders publish local directives to include quick reaction checklists (QRCs) as required to expand, further define, or tailor the SOF program to their specific operational and geographic requirements.

2. Concept. The assignment of a SOF does not reduce or eliminate the inherent authority and responsibility of the aircraft commander for the safety of his or her aircraft and crew. Positive supervision of flying activities is necessary and appropriate for all AFRC activities.

2.1. The SOF:

2.1.1. Monitors and supervises all phases of flying until relieved by higher authority.

2.1.2. Advises, assists, and provides direction on behalf of the commander to enhance safe flying operations and, or to effect the safe recovery of emergency aircraft.

2.1.3. Becomes familiar with the details of all missions in progress or scheduled during the SOF tour of duty.

2.1.4. Reviews the operational risk management assessment submitted for each mission and coordinate any anomalies with the appropriate authority.

2.1.5. Monitors the progress and status of all airborne assigned or attached aircraft.

2.1.6. Keeps abreast of current and forecast weather conditions, and status of airdrome and navigational facilities serving the airdrome and any designated alternate airfield, and ensures that airfield managers are notified if their airfield is being used as a training or diversion base.

2.1.7. Renders assistance to airborne aircrews in the form of advisories, instructions, or directives, as required.

2.1.8. Takes necessary action to prevent a serious emergency situation from developing when airfield conditions, weather, or aircraft malfunctions indicate a potentially hazardous situation exists. Such action may be in the form of a directive (on behalf of the commander) pertaining to diverting or holding aircraft, including transient aircraft at AFRC bases, providing technical assistance during inflight malfunctions or emergencies, and ensuring deteriorating weather conditions are passed to the pilot by appropriate agencies. Additionally, the SOF monitors a designated frequency and provides assistance and direction to aircraft, as required. This in no way relieves other agencies of responsibilities to provide assistance and direction to emergency aircraft. If weather conditions or air traffic control (ATC) requirements preclude direct radio contact, the SOF monitors the frequency on which the emergency aircraft is being controlled, and passes advisories and directions through appropriate ATC agencies.

2.1.9. Reports any unusual activities observed during their tour of duty to the operations group commander (OG/CC) or senior operations ART, as appropriate.

2.2. A facility or vehicle is provided from which the SOF monitors and supervises flying activities. The SOF facility provides ready access to a multichannel UHF or VHF radio, as required, and may be located in the command post/operations center, squadron/group/wing/detachment operations, alert facility, control tower, radio equipped vehicle, or as designated by the OG/CC. Unit implementing instructions establish the duty location of the SOF, depending on local conditions and existing facilities. As a minimum, the SOF is provided with the following:

2.2.1. Military vehicle equipped with a multichannel UHF or VHF radio, as required, compatible with primary aircraft authorization (PAA) aircraft and ATC facilities.

2.2.2. Locally developed sequence of action checklists (QRCs) outlining procedures to be followed during normal and emergency operations. The checklists include procedures for obtaining rapid contractor assistance during serious airborne emergencies.

2.2.3. SOF kit to include applicable directives and aircraft flight manuals for each type of aircraft assigned to the unit. Immediate access to Flight Crew Information File (FCIF) publications satisfies this requirement.

2.3. The SOF should not be tasked to perform concurrent duties if such duties would interfere in any way with SOF responsibilities.

2.4. Normal duty period is locally defined, not to exceed maximum flight duty periods specified in AFI 11-401, *Flight Management*, during periods of reduced flying activity, which permits extended rest periods, commanders may authorize a duty period of 24 hours. Qualified personnel, who are temporarily performing duty not involving flying (DNIF), may perform SOF duties if approved by a flight surgeon.

3. Command Relationship. The SOF serves as the commander's operational flying representative in lieu of an operational command post, and is an extension of the responsibility and authority of the command and control chain.

4. Training Program. The OG/CC develops a training program for rated officers selected for SOF duties to include:

4.1. A review and understanding of applicable SOF directives and procedures.

4.2. A briefing by the OG/CC on SOF responsibilities, to include the SOF's duties, and those of the safety officer in the event of an accident or incident.

4.3. Tours by the SOF trainee to accompany and observe an experienced SOF during portions of two separate SOF tours, or until proficiency and knowledge is demonstrated in the following areas:

4.3.1. Operation of equipment located in the designated duty location.

4.3.2. Operation of the SOF vehicle and ancillary equipment.

4.3.3. Operation of all radios accessible for SOF use.

4.3.4. Location and routes of travel to inspection areas such as runways, taxiways, barriers, and arm/de-arm. Facilities such as the command post, weather station, applicable ATC facilities, etc, will be visited for familiarization.

4.4. A letter of appointment, signifying that training has been completed, is maintained by the Operations Training Division/DOT. The OG/CC accomplishes annual recertification of appointed SOF personnel. An updated letter of appointment is accomplished at the time of recertification.

5. On-Call SOF. Unit commanders may elect to establish an on-call SOF when unit aircraft are not flying to monitor missions away from home station. Units establish a SOF policy for off-station flights and recoveries.

6. General Information. Within this command:

- 6.1. Multiple AFRC units located on a base may be supported by a single AFRC SOF provided that the requirements of the basic paragraph are satisfied and respective commanders concur.
- 6.2. Requests for more than one AFRC SOF vehicle per base must be submitted on AF Form 601, **Equipment Action Request**, according to AFM 67-1, volume IV, part I, chapter 5, and forwarded with supporting rationale through channels to HQ AFRC/LGT.

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Commander